

INTERVIEW OF WILLIAM A. MORRIS, 7/12/67

17

6

MORRIS

Re "CB"

(But didn't know PP)

6

7/28/67

TRANSCRIBED 7/14/67

July file

(as "Bertrand")

Re: CLAY SHAW (Bertrand)
ROBERT RUBY et al

This will be a tape recording of an interview made on July 12, 1967, at exactly 4:20 P.M., interview conducted by William Boxley of the District Attorney's Office of New Orleans and by William Martin, of the District Attorney's Office of New Orleans. The interview will be conducted in the Wynne State Farm, Texas Department of Corrections. The interview is conducted with Mr. William A. Morris, an inmate at said institution.

- Q. What we would like to know about first, if we could, BILL, are you called BILL or BILLIE?
- A. BILLIE. BILL MORRIS
- Q. June 1958 ~~Alright. This incident about your introduction to CLAY SHAW. Did you meet CLAY SHAW in New Orleans?~~
- A. ~~Well, I met a man introduced to me as CLAY BERTRAND.~~
- Q. ~~You met a CLAY BERTRAND?~~
- A. ~~I met a CLAY BERTRAND. The name CLAY SHAW was never mentioned or used to me.~~
- Q. ~~Alright, can you tell me the circumstances of meeting MR. BERTRAND?~~
- A. ~~I certainly can. I met him at the Masquerade Bar. I was taken there by GENE DAVIS for the express reason to meet him.~~
- Q. ~~Alright, when was this?~~
- A. ~~It was some time in June of 1958.~~
- Q. ~~June of '58 and what was the occasion of the Masquerade ball?~~
- A. ~~The Masquerade Bar.~~
- Q. ~~Bar, I beg your pardon.~~
- A. ~~On St. Louis Street. It's a homosexual hangout.~~
- Q. ~~Okay.~~
- A. ~~It's now -- when I left -- called the Cove. It changed names.~~
- Q. ~~The Cove? C-O-V-E?~~
- A. ~~Uh huh, it's on St. Louis Street. Between Bourbon and Dauphine.~~
- Q. ~~Now why was GENE DAVIS interested in introducing you to BERTRAND?~~
- A. ~~Well, for sexual purposes.~~
- Q. ~~It was for sexual purposes.~~
- A. ~~That's right.~~

Available for follow up questioning. Very sketchy, however. JZ



There wasn't anything else suggested?

No.

Okay. Now then, what age were you at that time?

I was 18.

Q. You were 18. And where did you live in New Orleans at that time?

A. Oh, I was living on Dauphine Street, right across the street from the Dauphine Restaurant. A little old hole in the wall restaurant. There's a little apartment house there. I was living with a guy named ART.

Q. ART.

A. He worked for GENE DAVIS at the Court of Two Sisters. GENE DAVIS at that time -- I read in the paper about it naturally, and they say he owns Wanda's Bar -- but at that time he just worked for the Court of Two Sisters. He didn't own nothing. He didn't own a car.

Q. What was he doing at the Court of Two Sisters?

A. Some kind of maitre'd or something, he wasn't just any everyday bimmy you know. He offered to get me a job there and I'm sorry I didn't go to work, to be honest with you.

Q. Okay, and he introduced you to CLAY BERTRAND. Now, have you identified in your own mind CLAY BERTRAND from pictures that you've seen in the paper or did you ever..

A. I never seen the picture in the paper, to be honest with you, but I seen him on T.V. once and I thought maybe... Oh, looks like, well, somebody I'd be... Well, I thought it was somebody I'd tricked with when I was in New Orleans, and then I kept thinking...

Q. When did you see him on T.V.?

A. Oh, it's been a long time ago, three or four months.

Q. In what connection?

A. Well just something about Jim Garrison's stuff. They had him coming out of the, oh, uh, he didn't say nothing he was just going in something, you know.

Q. In a building or...

A. Yeah, in a building, you see, I just seen him.

Q. Then what you say then is that you saw on television several months ago photographs of a man going in or out of the Court building and this was the man you knew as CLAY BERTRAND?

A. It looked a lot like him, I'll say that. Seeing a man on television and seeing him in real might make a difference.

Q. Yeah.

you understand what I mean?

A.

Sure, sure. Was he on television as CLAY SHAW? Was a reference made to him on television as CLAY SHAW?

Q.

Yes, yes.

A.

This man was identified on television at that time as CLAY SHAW?

Q.

As CLAY SHAW.

A.

I see.

Q.

They said he was a New Orleans businessman or something. He told me he worked for General Electric. I remember that.

A.

Alright, you met him at the Masquerade Bar.

Q.

Yes.

A.

Where did you go with him from there?

Q.

We went to GENE DAVIS' apartment.

A.

Okay. Was this at night or in the daytime?

Q.

This was at night.

A.

Do you remember where GENE DAVIS' apartment was?

Q.

I remember where it was but not the exact address. It was two or three doors down further from the Court of Two Sisters. On the even side of Bourbon, of course, 610 or 612 Bourbon, it could have been 608 or 614, you understand what I mean?

A.

Yeah. And did you go up there with CLAY BERTRAND?

Q.

CLAY BERTRAND, yes. We went in a little efficiency... it was a little efficiency apartment. I had been there before with GENE DAVIS, of course.

A.

Alright, now, did you ever see him after that?

Q.

Uh, I seen him, uh... Yes, I saw him two more times when we went to GENE DAVIS' apartment; I saw him on MR. BOONE'S boat; and then he entered my apartment one night by mistake. But that would take just a little explaining to explain that.

A.

Alright, you saw him twice more at DAVIS' apartment...

Q.

Now, sir, at the Masquerade and we went to DAVIS' apartment. We always met at the Masquerade to have a drink -- I don't even think he drank -- I don't remember -- but then we went to GENE'S, GENE DAVIS' little apartment.

A.

You think he did not drink?

Q.

I can't remember whether he drank beer or what. I know GENE DAVIS was a lush, a lush. He drank some, you know what I mean.

A.

Q. Well, now how is mine cut? I mean, to be of any value on the tape, we have to have that.

A. Well, a bushy crewcut.

Q. A bushy crewcut, alright. What color hair did he have?

A. Greyish-brown, greyish-reddish-brown.

Q. Alright, did he ever wear glasses during the times you saw him?

A. I couldn't say one way or another on that.

Q. About how much do you think he weighed?

A. About 180 pounds, 185.

Q. About 180 to 185 pounds?

A. Yes.

Unidentified - Here I've got a lighter. You can keep those matches, I have more here.

Q. What's the longest time you were with him, I mean in close relationship like we're sitting here now or as you might at a bar?

A. Well, we never hung around the Masquerade much. We just had one drink or two and then split, you understand? I'll say about a period of about three hours.

Q. About three hours. Alright, you say you met him for sexual purposes, did he pay you for this?

A. \$20.00.

Q. He payed you \$20.00.

A. Each time, No prearranged agreement, he just... Gene just told me it was a good score ... don't count on him for nothing.

Q. What did the sexual practices consist of, would you mind describing them for me, to help in our effort to identify the man?

A. Well, actually it makes no difference to me, cause it's no secret with me. I'm down here on an homosexual offense so it's no secret with me. To him maybe it might be. Well, I don't know the terms to use, legal terms, but he just, he f--ked me, you see.

Q. Alright. It was anal intercourse then.

A. Anal intercourse, yeah, that's the legal term.

Q. Now did it consist of anything else?

A. Well he, he always... as I remember it... that was just about it. Well, he wasn't exactly the butchest thing in the world, you know. He was, he was a homosexual, by that I mean, you know.

Q. What do you mean by the butchest thing in the world?

- A. Well he gets up in it, you know. Do you understand what I mean?
- Q. Yeah. Okay, now then, in his conversations with you did he ever disclose anything that would lead you to believe what type of work he was engaged in?
- A. No.
- Q. Anything about his personal life?
- A. No, you mean where he lived? He told me he lived with his mother. That's why we went to GENE DAVIS' place. And that's a natural thing. People live with their mothers. Or maybe they're even married and have a wife.
- Q. What was the man's age?
- A. He was in his...he looked to me to be about his middle thirties.
- Q. He appeared in his mid-thirties in 1958?
- A. But he had a very nice physique for a man that age. If you understand what I mean. I don't remember if he had any tatoos or scars.
- Q. What kind of voice did he have? Was it like mine, or yours or Mr. Martin's, was he harsh in his speech?
- A. Oh well now, that's hard.
- Q. I know it's been a long time.
- A. Well, I mean, he never said "heard" or "Knowed" or "dis" and "dat".
- Q. He spoke good english?
- A. He spoke good english.
- Q. Maybe we can help, rather than say he had a voice like yours or mine, did he have a high voice or a low voice?
- A. He wasn't one of them "Hi, darling" (in feminine voice) type of homosexuals, if that's what you mean. This guy was a John. If you'd meet him on the street you'd never snap. You could go fishing with him, play poker with him (I don't know if he plays poker) or anything, you'd never snap in a million years. Don't get me wrong when I say he's a homosexual, he's not one of those, you know what I mean, limp wrists. He's a butch.
- Q. Was he a cultured man, was he a working man, this is the thing I mean about his voice. You can usually tell what type of economic life a man leads by the way he talks. That's what I'm after.
- A. Oh well, I'd make book he went to college. He didn't dress like one, he dressed nice. Now GENE DAVIS dressed like a slob. He may dress nice now that he has that bar and got a little money but back then he dressed like a slob. Actually, he was a slob. Not that I've got anything against him.

- Q. I've never seen GENE DAVIS. Would you describe him to me? How tall would you say GENE DAVIS is?
- A. Well he's shorter than I am, definitely shorter.
- Q. How much shorter?
- A. Oh, not a great deal. He's not a short man but he's not a tall man either. He might be grey headed now but he had coal black hair then and he's a black headed person, with black eyebrows, and black eyes and he was kind of hairy, on his arms.
- Q. Well, how tall would you say he is, is he 5'5" or 5'10"?
- A. Well, he's about 5'8½" or 9" or 10". Not no midget.
- Q. How much would he weigh?
- A. He had false teeth. (*talking about GENE DAVIS*)
- Q. He had at that time false teeth. If he had them then, he has got to have them now. You don't grow 'em again. I guess I just might as well go and get mine. Alright he had false teeth, he's about 5'8½" or 5'9" and how much did he weigh?
- A. I'm not too good at guessing weights? I'll say as best I can, I'd say he weighed about 160 pounds.
- Q. About 160?
- A. He wasn't exactly fat. He had a little pouch.
- Q. Now he introduced you to this man as CLAY BERTRAND in the bar?
- A. In the Masquerade Bar.
- Q. The Masquerada Bar. Did BERTRAND wear a hat?
- A. No, never have I seen the man with a hat on. Never. I don't know if he wears one now, but I've never seen one.
- Q. Now do you remember what you drank? At the first meeting. I'm not talking about the subsequent meetings but the first time you met the guy in the Masquerade Bar when GENE DAVIS introduced you ---
- A. What did I drink?
- Q. Yes.
- A. I know what I drank. If they were buying, I drank a stinger. If someone else is buying, I'm going to drink a mixed drink.
- Q. Now it's your memory we're trying and not your drinking habits. We're trying to see what you can definitely recall without any question in your mind.

A. I can't recall what the name of the name of the drinks were but I know we had a drink everytime we went there. And I know that CLAY BERTRAND or whatever his name was paid for them. With a big time big score like that GENE DAVIS wasn't about to go to his pocket.

Q. The first time you met him was BERTRAND wearing a suit, or was he wearing slacks or what?

A. He was wearing a suit everytime I met him.

Q. Everytime you met him he wore a suit.

A. Well maybe sometimes he was wearing a sport coat but he always had on a jacket.

Q. To get away from this a little bit, we'll come back to it later, would you tell me about the period of time you lived in Beaumont and Port Arthur in Jefferson County?

A. Not a thing cause I was just there two days and I got busted.

Q. Who were you with at the time?

A. I was with a salesman from the company I was working for but he's strictly straight, don't know none of these people. Just as old wino. His name is WALTER S. SMITH. The police liked to have beat him to death when he told them that in Beaumont. They had me on an alias and they got him and they asked him what's your name and he said SMITH and they like to beat him to death but that was his name, Smith.

Q. Where were you caught?

A. I was apprehended in Beaumont, Texas.

Q. No, I mean, where were you -- in a motel room, a car or where were you?

A. No, I was out in the woods.

Q. Alright. And you didn't know anyone around Beaumont?

A. Not a soul. Well I went there to work for a company. Allied Continental Automobile Association, 1232 Baronne Street in New Orleans and 808 Orleans Street in Beaumont. But I believe they closed their Beaumont office down. I wouldn't know about their other.

Q. Did someone in New Orleans recommend you to Beaumont for that job?

A. I was sent out there purposely to go to work there. You know to run their sales up. I'm a pretty good salesman.

Q. Who sent you there?

A. Well, TROY HEIDELBERG, the manager of the New Orleans office, and LOUIS ROMANO, the owner in the Houston office at 1803 Pease Street in Houston.

Q. Do you know if HEIDELBERG knew CLAY SHAW?

- A. Oh, no, no. Those two parts of my life were entirely separate. This was in 1960 I'm talking about; I was talking about 1959 just a minute ago. Those two parts of my life are entirely separate. TROY HEIDELBERG is married and has four children, is a Mason, one of those type of people. I worked for the man. Oh I might have gone next door with him and drank a bottle of beer at lunchtime. He knew I was homosexual.
- Q. How long did you work for that company?
- A. About eight months.
- Q. Had you known HEIDELBERG before?
- A. I never saw him before I walked in the office. I answered an ad in the paper. That's the reason I walked in.
- Q. Alright, can you tell us anyone else in New Orleans in 1958 who might have been introduced to CLAY BERTRAND as CLAY BERTRAND?
- A. Well, I could tell you a gang of people. I don't know where you'd hunt them up.
- Q. Well, I say who might have been. Do you know anybody who did know him as CLAY BERTRAND other than GENE DAVIS?
- A. BILL BOONE.
- Q. BILL BOONE, the owner of the yacht.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Do you happen to remember the name of the yacht club or where the yacht was located?
- A. It was out by the My-O-Mv Club. I don't know the name of it but it was by the My-O-Mv. *Homosexual night club
by the name Pontchartrain*
- Q. It was the yacht club next to the My-O-Mv?
- A. Yes, it was right over from there.
- Q. Do you remember anything about the bartender at the Masquerade Bar? Do you know who he was?
- A. CHRIS GOODYEAR, if I remember right.
- Q. CHRIS GOODYEAR. Did he know BERTRAND?
- A. Now I found out later and this is getting ahead of myself and I'm going to confuse myself and confuse you, too, probably, but I found out later than BILL BOONE owned that bar, I didn't know it then. But he owned it. CHRIS GOODYEAR ran it for him. But he sold out. That's when they changed the name over from the Cove. You know in 1958, the summer of 1958, they got real rough on homosexuals in the New Orleans area, and dope people. I'm not a dope person but, well, most of them got their hatboxes and headed for Miami. About that time BILL BOONE ... when I got back, the way I understood when I got back he sold it. But at the time I met BILL BOONE I didn't know that. The time I met BILL BOONE I had been living in New Orleans for just a couple of months. I

I lived in New Orleans for a total of about three months and by the time I got to living there, well BILL BOONE was kind of wellknown around... some homosexuals know him and the time I met him I didn't know him from Adam's housecat, the first time I was introduced to him, if you understand what I mean.

Q. Alright, who else might have known BERTRAND that you can think of?

A. Well, this guy I lived with, named WALTER WILSON.

Q. WALTER WILSON?

A. Yeah.

Q. Well, what did he do, where can we find him?

A. Well, I lived with him for quite a while. I know he knows BILL BOONE because he runs a bridge club in New Orleans.

Q. What club?

A. A bridge club.

Q. The cardgame Bridge?

A. Yes, at 117 University Place. BILL BOONE has been up there to play bridge and he knew him through bridge playing. And he might know GENE DAVIS just very casually, very casually. But I don't know if he's ever met this other guy.

Q. Before we get too far off the subject of BILL BOONE, do you know, I want to make sure we're pronouncing and spelling that right, do you know how to spell it?

A. Like Daniel Boone.

Q. Like Daniel Boone.

A. B-O-O-N-E.

Q. Right. Can you tell us some more names of any homosexuals that you knew in New Orleans?

A. AMOS McFARLAN, CANDY LEE. I don't know where CANDY'S at right now. CANDY knew them all, CANDY knew GENE, GENE DAVIS, I don't know if she knew this other one.

Q. What did she do, was she a stripper or what?

A. She worked at the back bar at Tony Basina's, CANDY LEE. *correct.*

Q. Do you know if she knew CLAY BERTRAND?

A. No, I'd have no way of knowing whether she knew him.

Q. But she knew DAVIS?

A. Oh, yeah. I'm sure. And there's that big fat gal that used to run around the bar, everybody called her WANDA. I've seen BILL BOONE in there talking to her. So I know she knows BILL.

- Q. Where is Wanda's Bar?
- A. On Iberville between Royal and Bourbon, I don't know the exact address, right next door to that garage where you can park and the department store.
- Q. Exactly where?
- A. On Iberville between Royal and Bourbon.
- Q. Okay, did you know DAVID FERRIE?
- A. I don't recognize the name.
- Q. Did you ever know LEE HARVEY OSWALD?
- A. No. But what I wanted to tell you is this. That CLAY BERTRAND in 1960 brought a man by to the apartment I was living in by mistake and this guy looked like the guy in Dallas who shot OSWALD, RUBY. He was a dapper lil' ole man. They came by my apartment by mistake.
- Q. How could they do that by mistake?
- A. Well, I sure hate to involve ole WALTER WILSON in any of this because he was the guy I lived with you know, and he ran the bridge club. You all can verify this with him if he's still in New Orleans. I don't know you see, I've been locked up in this place going on seven years. BILL BOONE owned some property on the corner of St. Peter and Dauphine. Being from New Orleans you probably know the place. It has four apartments in it. But although he owns the place, he doesn't manage it. On the corner of Bourbon and St. Peter there's a Chinese lady and don't ask me her name. I couldn't remember it and she manages this property. Now me and WALTER WILSON we went to Miami sometime in July 1958 and we came back in September sometime and this is when I met MR. BOONE on the boat. Now this is sometime in September of 1960. Meanwhile I had lived in Miami, Atlanta and Macon, Georgia. Now me and MR. WILSON are back in New Orleans and we rent an apartment from MR. BOONE, the Chinese lady, but it is MR. BOONE'S apartment. Gave the Chinese lady the rent. After we were living there for about... this guy EDDIE who works for MR. BOONE came by there and said hello, you know. He wanted to borrow some bedsheets from me. And I said sure and I loaned him a bedspread, some sheets and pillowslips and he brought them back a couple of days later; they were laundered real nice and he said thank you and I said thank you. But there were a lot of comings and goings in the other apartment but I didn't know what was going on, I didn't pay it no mind. But I thought they were going in there tricking, having sex. I seen EDDIE going in there with the kids hustling. I figured that one time. But there was all kinds of people going in that place. So I lived in that one apartment for one month. Well, I happened to be going past there and I saw EDDIE ^{there} in there cleaning up and doing things and I looked in there and it was a much nicer apartment and I said why don't you let me rent this apartment. EDDIE said I don't see why not. It's not so much it was nicer, I just liked it there. It was one big room. My rent was up in two or three days so I asked WT about it and he said it's only \$10.00 more so go ahead

Q. WT?

A. WALTER THOMAS WILSON. He won't give you his name, just a couple of initials. So I got my stuff and moved over to the other apartment. I hadn't been there over a night or two when here comes this guy BERTRAND just walk in, he had a key. He said well what are you doing over here. And I said well how are you, what are you doing here? And I was surprised to see him because I hadn't seen him in a long time but I still knew him because I tricked with him. And he said what are you doing here, you waiting to meet BILL? And I said no I live here. He said you live with BILL? And I said no I moved in here. He walked out. He had a man with him.

Q. Who do you mean by BILL?

A. BILL BOONE. When he said do you live with BILL well he thought I had, well... you all work with the D.A.'s office, you know how it is with homosexuals. Evidently, if you're investigating this you're dealing with GENE and them. He thought then I split up with WT and had moved in with BILL BOONE.

Q. Now can you describe the man he had with him?

A. Just a dapper lil'ole man.

Q. A what lil'ole man?

A. A dapper.

Q. Was he wearing a hat?

A. Yeah, he was. One of those straw hats with the short bill on it.

Q. Short band?

A. No.

Q. Short crown?

A. Short crown.

Q. About how tall was he?

A. There we go again. What I call short.

Q. How short?

A. Oh, I'd say about 5'6" or 5'6½". About this man's size her, but a little bit paunchier. (Indicating BILL MARTIN) A lot older than you.

Q. He's older than I am and he's my height. What age would you say he is?

A. About WT'S age. But that don't strike up nothing.

Q. Give us close as you can to how old you think he was?

- A. About 45.
- Q. Did he keep his hat on the whole time he was there?
- A. He was only there about three minutes.
- Q. Was he wearing glasses?
- A. No, he wasn't.
- Q. And he weighed a little more than Mr. Martin?
- A. He was heavier.
- Q. We ought to have the record show that I'm 5'8½" (Wm. Martin) and also he said he was about my height and weight except he had a hat on.
- A. You haven't got any hat on.
- Q. How much do you weigh?
- Q. About 170 (Mr. Martin).
- A. So I guess I'm pretty good at guessing weights after all.
- Q. This man with a hat was he wearing a suit?
- A. Nice looking fellow. A real nice dresser and when I say dapper, I mean dapper. He was all dressed up, you know... suit. He was wearing a black suit.
- Q. Alright, how was BERTRAND dressed?
- A. Suit.
- Q. Was it a light or dark suit BERTRAND was wearing?
- A. It's funny. I can remember what suit this other guy had on but can't remember that, but I'll be honest with you, I just don't know what this man was wearing. Everytime I ever seen CLAY BERTRAND he's been pretty nicely fixed up, dressed up in a suit. Everytime I ever saw GENE DAVIS, he was dressed like a bum.
- Q. Did you ever spend any time around Dallas?
- A. Never been to Dallas.
- Q. You've never been to Dallas?
- A. That's right.
- Q. You'll can stay around here and talk for a while and I'm going to go out and get some pictures.
- (Martin to Boxley) Very good. You've got the whole set that I sent you plus some others?
- Q. (Boxley) Yes. Are you going to make notes for me?
- A. (Morris) You're not used to this heat?
- Q. Uh?

You're not used to this heat. I haven't been in an air conditioned room going on seven years. It don't phase me.

- Q. Is that right.
- A. Yeh, it's bothering you.
- Q. Have you stated here in this interview when you came here, what date it was when you were first arrested?
- A. I was arrested on January 1, 1961.
- Q. And have you ever been free since then?
- A. Yeh, I made bond. But the last free day I saw was February 6, 1961. That was the last free day I saw and it will probably be the last free day I see for three or four more years.
- Q. Okay, now to get back to the other people you know, who knew BERTRAND. Now are you pretty well satisfied with your memory on that? Do you know anyone in New Orleans who may have known this man CLAY BERTRAND?
- A. No, Sir, I don't. Now let me explain how this situation goes. The three times I met him at the Masquerade Bar it was, GENE DAVIS took me all three times, it was kind of a thing between us, and then we went straight from there to MR. DAVIS' apartment, GENE DAVIS, well actually, it was kind of...very private, you know what I mean. It wasn't like going to a big party with 100 people there and CLAY BERTRAND was there. Now this guy EDDIE who worked for BILL BOONE. ..
- Q. Now about EDDIE...tell me something about him.
- A. Whenever he was introduced to you, he was BILL BOONE's flunky, and this is it.
- Q. About BILL BOONE...
- A. I'll tell you who else I met, BILL BOONE introduced to me. I met....it doesn't have anything to do with this ...he used to come down every year and visit with him... Tennessee Williams.
- Q. TENNESSEE WILLIAMS knew BILL BOONE? Visited him, was intimate friends with him?
- A. They were intimate friends. They were in 1958 or 1959 and '60. He was famous then, he's got a little more famous now. That's who showed up, TENNESSEE WILLIAMS.
- Q. Did you ever run across, in all the friends of BOONE, BERTRAND's and SHAW's, did you ever run across a Latin American, tall, spanish speaking, but he spoke english with a very heavy spanish accent.
- A. Now, I wrote you all a litter...ah, evidently you all got, cause .., but there was a Cuban person on that boat in September, in late September when I went out there and I wrote you about that.
- Q. Yes.

- A. ~~I know a Cuban cause I lived in Miami... Somehow I can just tell the difference between a Cuban and a Mexican.~~
- Q. ~~Can you tell the difference between a Cuban and a Venezuelan or a Cuban and a ...~~
- A. ~~Aw, no. You might have me there.~~
- Q. ~~Well, I just wanted to get that clear. Can you describe this Latin American for me? primarily, what was his age, approximately?~~
- A. He was approximately 22. He was young. He wasn't... uh, I just figured it was somebody BILL was...you know.
- Q. Uh huh.
- A. You understand what I mean?
- Q. I understand. Are you any relation to a young man in Baton Rouge by the name of PERRY RUSSO?
- A. Who?
- Q. RUSSO..
- A. Any relation? Any kin? Why, no.
- Q. The reason I ask is that you look so damn much like him. I've been noticing since you've been talking and thought you might be a relation to him and I didn't know anything about it.
- A. Oh, no. The only kinfolk I got in my mama. My daddy is still alive, but he disappeared years ago. My mama, two aunts and my grandpa. I haven't even got any brothers, or sisters. I'm the only child and my mother's the only child.
- Q. Any cousins?
- A. Well, I've got some real distant ones but they certainly wouldn't be named RUSSO. I'm the only disrespectful one in my family.
- Q. I didn't mean to imply or relate the name RUSSO with disrespect.
- A. Oh, no. There's nothing wrong with the name RUSSO but I'm from Tennessee, and people up there, you know, ... it's a common name down there in Louisiana, but in Tennessee, I can't even say that I've even heard the name.
- Q. I see...
- A. Of course, it might...I think I read the name in the paper in the New Orleans bit. You see when I get a paper its two or three days old and it's all cut up and all.
- Q. Can you remember anyone else in the New Orleans area, aside from TENNESSEE WILLIAMS who used to know BOONE?

- A. CHRIS GOODYEAR worked for him but CHRIS GOODYEAR left town when BILL BOONE sold the Masquerade Bar.
- Q. Do you know if BILL BOONE ever sold the apartment you were living in?
- A. I have no idea. He might have sold it in 1960.
- Q. Do you know if he was a native New Orleanian or...?
- A. He was from the West Coast. He lived on the West Coast. BILL BOONE had lived on the West Coast.
- Q. What kind of work had he done, investments had he made or something?
- A. It just never was discussed. He was just one of those kind of guys, I suppose. Always wore a little white sailor hat, a little white cap, you know. I'll tell you something else about him. He wears a toupee. He's been badly burned at one time or another.
- Q. Where? On what part of the body?
- A. I never seen him undressed. But he's got some on his head, on his arms.
- Q. How can you tell?
- A. You just have to look.
- Q. Scars?
- A. Scars, he's got plenty scars.
- Q. Are they obvious?
- A. If he's at a distance, he could get by. But if you shake him down pretty good, you can see them.
- Q. What age man is he?
- A. Well at the time I knew him he was pretty close to 60 years old.
- Q. About 60.
- A. He wasn't no young man then.
- Q. Burned on his face and...?
- A. Well, his forehead. It looks like he might have had a little plastic surgery done on his face due to the burn and his head, he wears a toupee though.
- Q. A complete toupee?
- A. No, no, he might wear a complete one now. He wore one like that (indicating top of head). In other words, he's got a bald crown.
- Q. In other words, a bald crown with a fringe.
- A. And he's brown headed and he wears a brown toupee. He's tall...

- Q. Is he burnt on the arms?
- A. He's just burnt, on his arms, his hands...
- Q. His hands. And he'd be about 60 now, you say?
- A. About 60.
- Q. You started to give a physical description of him.
- A. Well, I can give you a pretty good one of him because he is so tall. He's taller than I am, while most people aren't. So he's 6'3" or 6'4". He's skinny... thin.
- Q. Alright, I've got some pictures here and I'd like you to look at them and without turning them over just look and tell me if you know any of these men.
- A. Well, now. I'd be a smooth fool if I didn't tell you that's JACK RUBY. You can see the Dallas Police thing, 11/24/63, After all...
- Q. Can you make out any of the others?
- A. I don't know anybody else here...but this one... (long pause) Boy, if that's him, he's aged. He has. He looks like he's on dope habit, more 'n likely.
- Q. If its who?
- A. CLAY BERTRAND. He has aged. Course that could be... He's aged a lot. Course thats...It's been seven years. This one, this one, this one, this one I'd say definitely I've never seen them but this one, now that could be CLAY BERTRAND, the man GENE DAVIS introduced me to as CLAY BERTRAND.
- Q. Would you read into the microphone the number of this and the date of the man you identified as maybe being CLAY BERTRAND?
- A. 125-388 and then the date is the third months, the first day of 1967.
- Q. What does it say about it?
- A. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Q. Is it a mug shot?
- A. I've been mugged myself, and it looks like one to me.
- Q. Thanks. Let the record show that the photograph just identified was that taken of CLAY SHAW on the date of his arrest in this investigation.
- Q. Now this man here, does he look to you like the man that BERTRAND brought to your apartment by mistake?
- A. As I stated he had a hat on.
- Q. Alright, he had a hat on, let's cover up the top of his head. And he was dressed in a suit you recall, so let's cover up his open collar.

A. That very well could be him. I just couldn't swear on it.

Q. Okay.

A. You know what I mean?

Q. Alright let me show you a different group of pictures and you can tell me if any of these...

Q. The picture you just identified as possibly being the man who was taken by mistake to your apartment. Would you read the information on the police card?

A. Dallas Police 36D98, 11th month, 24th day, 1963.

Q. Let the record show that the photograph just been identified is that taken of JACK RUBY on the date of his arrest following the assassination.

Here's another group of pictures. Do you or did you know any of these people?

(Very long silence)

A. That boy's name is Davis.

Q. DAVID?

A. DAVID.

Q. Where did you know him from?

A. I know him from New Orleans.

Q. Do you know what he did in New Orleans?

A. Now, I just seen...yeah, him. He hustled, on the...

Q. What do you mean hustled, was he a homosexual? He recruited or arranged dates or what? What do you mean by hustler? It means a lot of different things to a lot of people. I'd like to know what you mean by it?

A. Just going around and having sex with homosexuals and anybody who'd pay him...to make some money. That's what he did. DAVID, I believe that...except those whiskers, he never had whiskers. I believe that's a boy named DAVID I used to know who was a hustler in New Orleans.

Q. Would you know the last name if you heard it?

A. Try five names and I'll see if I could pick it out.

Q. Alright, let me give you some.

DAVID FINLEY?

A. No.

Q. DAVID HALSEY?

A. No.

Q. DAVID DURAND?

A. No.

Q. DAVID GRIFFIN?

A. No.

Q. DAVID GUTHRIE?

A. No.

Q. DAVID GERMAINE? Okay.

A. Boy, this is hard. I know his name was DAVID. I'll tell you all that. Now I don't know his name might not even be DAVID.

Q. For the record you've been talking about a photograph of DALLAS GRIFFIN GUTHRIE.

A. Who?

Q. DALLAS GRIFFIN GUTHRIE. Photograph made in the Dallas Police Department No. 40547 in 1966.

A. Well, when I know this guy. I knew him as DAVE.

Q. Alright. Did you ever hear the name of a man called GORDON NOVEL?

A. No, I say that...I'm almost certain...

Q. GORDON NOVEL, he's a French Quarter habituae, a bar owner, etc.

Do you want to take a look at one last group of pictures. Do you know any of these people?

A. Never saw any of them before. Never saw any of them before.

Q. Have you ever heard the name DEAN ANDREWS?

A. Nope, I've never heard it.

Q. Have you ever had occasion to meet an attorney who sometimes would take cases of homosexuals who were arrested or have you ever been introduced to an attorney of that kind who would help you out of trouble if you ever got in any of that kind?

A. (shakes head in the negative).

Q. Have you ever done any female impersonations?

A. No, never. I'm just not that type of, you know ... I've just never done it. Besides, I'm slightly too hairy.

Q. Let's get a physical description one more time of the man you met as CLAY BERTRAND. How tall do you estimate he was?

- A. About my height.
- Q. Which is what?
- A. Well, I'm approximately 6'. He might be just a little bit shorter than me... someshorter.
- Q. A little shorter than you. Okay, and how much would you say he weighs?
- A. He was stocky and well built, about 180. He had a nice built for a man his age. And I'd say he was about 35 or 40 years old and he was build nice for his age. At least I thought so.
- Q. Okay, he was 35 to 40, a little bit shorter than you, and did he have a full head of hair, thinning hair or what?
- A. He had a head of hair.
- Q. Alright, what color?
- A. Kind of reddish-brownish-grey, you know what I mean.
- Q. Yeah, and did he carry his weight. How much would you say he weighed?
- A. About 180.
- Q. 100 and what?
- A. About 180.
- Q. Okay. One thing that I wanted to ask you... Do you know if any of these men that we talked about so far who knew CLAY BERTHARD, do you know if any of these people had a police record of any kind?
- A. I wouldn't know whether they did or whether they didn't.
- Q. You don't know.
- A. I have no idea.
- Q. Now before we conclude this interview, I'd like to ask you if you have any objections at all to the way this interview was conducted and whether or not it was given of your own free will?
- A. It was given of my own free will, and uh, it turned out pretty fair, I thought.
- Q. Thank you.
- Q. Thank you, Mr. Morris.

THIS INTERVIEW WAS CONCLUDED AT 14 MINUTES AFTER 5, P.M., 12th DAY OF JULY, 1967. CONDUCTING THE INTERVIEW WERE MR. WILLIAM BOXLEY OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, ORLEANS PARISH, AND WILLIAM R. MARTIN, ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF ORLEANS PARISH.